

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and again examine the claims as amended.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-19 are rejected. Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 13, and 15-17 are amended herein. Claims 20-23 are new.

As an initial matter, Applicants cannot identify that formal drawings earlier submitted on December 10, 2001 have been indicated as being approved by the Examiner. Approval of the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner asserts that use of the term "and/or" in the claims leads to ambiguity.

Applicants have amended Claims 8 and 9 herein to recite "at least one of" instead of the original "and/or" language. Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 8 and 9 are now proper under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be removed.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (U.S. Patent number 6,571,245). The Examiner rejected Claims 13, 14, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. in view of

Pike et al. (Defense Data Network, Defense Secure Network; FAS Intelligence Resource Program; February 11, 2000...).

Applicants have amended Claim 1 herein to recite "...replicating the selected data portion to each one of the one or more selected sharing partners as replicated data on respective write-only data paths." Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 7-18.

Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentably distinct over Huang et al., since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests "...storing private data within a private data memory associated with a first sharing partner; selecting a portion of the private data to provide a private data portion; selecting one or more sharing partners associated with the first sharing partner; associating the private data portion with the one or more selected sharing partners; and replicating the selected data portion to each one of the one or more selected sharing partners as respective replicated data on respective write-only data paths," as set forth in Claim 1.

Claims 2-12 depend from and thus include the limitations of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 2-12 are patentably distinct over the cited reference at least for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 1 as well as for the reasons described below.

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 9, and 11-13 are amended herein merely to improve readability and to correct antecedent basis and not for reasons of patentability.

Applicants submit that Claim 4 is further patentably distinct over Huang et al, since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests "...copying the tagged shared data copy to a second shared data memory associated with the respective one of the one or more selected sharing partners on a respective one of the write-only data paths to provide a tagged replicated data copy," as set forth in Claim 4.

Applicants submit that Claim 9 is further patentably distinct over Huang et al, since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests "...automatically updating at least one of the

tagged private data, the tagged private data copy, the tagged shared data copy, and the tagged replicated data copy in accordance with the private data portion when the private data portion is altered by the first sharing partner," as set forth in Claim 9.

Applicants submit that Claim 12 is further patentably distinct over Huang et al, since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests "... automatically changing the tagged shared data copy and the tagged replicated data copy in accordance with the tagged private data when the tagged private data is altered by the first sharing partner," as set forth in Claim 12.

Applicants submit that independent Claim 15 is patentably distinct over Huang et al, since the cited reference neither describes nor suggests "...a first sharing partner including: a first client computer; and a first sharing partner server coupled to the first client computer, wherein the first sharing partner server includes a private data memory having a private data portion; and a second sharing partner including: a second client computer; and a second sharing partner server coupled to the second client computer; and a write-only data path coupled between the first sharing partner and the second sharing partner to allow the first sharing partner to write replicated data to the second sharing partner," as set forth in Claim 15.

Claims 16-17 depend from, and thus include the limitations of Claim 15. Thus, Applicants submit that Claims 16-17 are patentably distinct over the cited reference at least for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with Claim 15.

Applicants submit that Claims 13 and 14 are patentably distinct over Huang et al., whether taken alone or in combination with Pike et al., since the cited references neither describe nor suggest "... replicating the selected data to the selected sharing partners as replicated data on respective write-only data paths" and "... the one or more selected sharing partners are associated with military allies..., "as required by Claims 13 and 14.

Claim 18 is amended herein merely to improve readability and to correct antecedent basis and not for reasons of patentability.

Applicants submit that Claim 18 and 19 are patentably distinct over Huang et al., whether taken alone or in combination with Pike et al., since the cited references neither describe nor suggest "...a first sharing partner including: a first client computer; and a first sharing partner server coupled to the first client computer, wherein the first sharing partner server includes a private data memory having a private data portion; and a second sharing partner including: a second client computer; and a second sharing partner server coupled to the second client computer; and a write-only data path coupled between the first sharing partner and the second sharing partner to allow the first sharing partner to write replicated data to the second sharing partner" and "... the one or more selected sharing partners are associated with military allies...", as required by Claim 18 and 19.

Claims 20-23 are new in the application. Consideration of new Claims 20-23 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above Amendment and Remarks, Applicants submit that the claims and the entire case are in condition for allowance and should be sent to issue and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845, including but not limited to, any charges for extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136.

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Respectfully submitted,

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